

Message Text

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52

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NEA-10 SY-10 M-03 A-01 EB-11

SCA-01 /159 W

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P R 251300 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3430

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PFOR SF WA ZA MZ RH

SUBJ: SAG NAMES ZAMBIA AS SOURCE OF LATEST GUERRILLA ATTACK

REF: CAPE TOWN 263 (NOTAL), CAPE TOWN 225

1. POLICE MINISTER S. L. MULLER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT GUERRILLAS
AMBUSHED SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE (SAP) PATROL " DEEP INSIDE"
CAPRIVI STRIP ON GOOD FRIDAY, KILLING FOUR AFRICAN POLICEMEN
AND A LOCAL TRACKER. HE CLAIMED " TERRORISTS" HAD CROSSED BORDER
FROM ZAMBIA, CLEARLY IMPLYING ZAMBIAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR
INCIDENT. CLASHES WITH GUERRILLAS ON RHODESIA' S NORTHEASTERN
BORDER OVER EASTER WEEKEND, COMMING AT SAME TIME AS CAPRIVI
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AMBUSH, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO SOUTH AFRICAN UNEASE ABOUT "TERRORISM".

2. MULLER SAID SAP FOOT PATROL WAS FIRED ON WITH "HEAVY AND SUB- MACHINE GUNS" AT A PLACE "DEEP INSIDE" CAPRIVI STRIP. HE CLAIMED DEFENSELESS WOUNDED WERE LATER SHOT DEAD "AT POINT-BLANK RANGE" BY GUERRILLAS. POLICE INVESTIGATION HAD ESTABLISHED THAT GUERRILLAS CROSSED ZAMBIAN BORDER PREVIOUS NIGHT AND RETURNED TO ZAMBIA AFTER THE ATTACK, ACCORDING TO MULLER. FULL TEXT OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY POUCH.

3. SIMULTANEOUSLY, RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES REPORTEDLY LOST FOUR SOLDIERS (THREE WHITE, ONE AFRICAN) KILLED AND FIVE OTHERS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN EASTER WEEKEND CLASHES WITH INFILTRATORS IN THE MUKUMBURA TRIBAL TRUST LANDS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SAG WELL AWARE OF DANGERS, TO ITSELF AND OTHERS, OF PROVOKING AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT WITH ZAMBIA, PUBLIC INDIGNATION AND UNEASE ABOUT GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES ARE A CONTINUING FACTOR IN GOVERNMENT THINKING. NO ONE SHOULD UNDERESTIMATE POSSIBILITY THAT ONE OR SERIES OF THESE INCIDENTS COULD DRIVE SAG TO TAKE OVERT ACTION AGAINST ZAMBIA, NOW AS BEFORE UNMISTAKABLY IDENTIFIED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC MIND AS SOURCE OF MOST OF COUNTRY'S BORDER TROUBLES.
HURD

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MZ, RH, SF, WA
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DAR ES SALAAM
DURBAN
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JOHANNESBURG
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